

**From:** M S F  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/5/01 12:02am  
**Subject:** Let us decide

I have been using computers since 1963, when I started on an IBM 7090 using FORTRAN.

Thru all these generations of computing power, even including IBM, when they were broken up by the DOJ, I have never seen anyone quite as arrogant as Microsoft. They do NOT speak for consumers when they build their products. The ONLY innovation they are responsible for is innovation in restrictive contracts.

Instead, Microsoft has won out by purchasing technology (including, I remind you, the original version of MS-DOS itself) or by stealing it (Xerox PARC, Apple, Intuit, Netscape,...) and encapsulating it into a take-it-or-else bundle. They have NEVER listened to the desires of the end consumers. I never wanted Internet Explorer forced onto my desktop! Where did they get that? I never wanted Windows Media Whatsit--I use RealNetworks. Why can't I choose? Why do I have to take one size fits all from EVERY computer manufacturer out there. Give me the option of a basic OS on which I can place the applications I like--that is what competition is for!

They have killed many fine products over the years when they have been unable to buy them out--Novell DOS, WordPerfect, and Netscape come to mind as superior products effectively pushed out of the market.

They have prevented innovation by requiring outside developers to work with their bloated software and requiring manufacturers to install exactly what is shipped, with no changes, no matter how bad it is. Indeed, Windows 98 is widely recognized as the bug fix for Windows 95, but you have to pay for it. It is always amazing to me when I see Linux loading essentially the same apps as Windows but in 1/4 of the time and twice as robustly. If anything, the FTC (or whoever) should have issued a recall notice and consumer alert on anything as badly broken as their early releases. But remember, we are FORCED to take them--no choice.

It would be a real miscarriage of justice to allow them to continue under the remedies proposed by the US Attorney General. Can you say rewards--where does the proposal have Microsoft compensate us for our lack of freedom of choice?

Bill Gates has to be even more iron-willed than I thought--otherwise he would be unable to avoid laughing out loud in public about this settlement.

Good grief guys--open your eyes and look at what they are doing to

us--is this ACCEPTABLE?

Mike